PACMA · Parachute Air Club du Maroc Briefing sheet · 2026-2027 season

The words of your first jump

FFP-approved club · Beni Mellal airport · Every day from 5 December 2026 to 4 April 2027

Keep this sheet on your phone or print it: it lists, in the order of the jump, the words your instructor will use in the briefing, with their French equivalents. On the day, you'll feel right at home.

~4,000 m	15-20 min	~50 s	5-7 min
exit altitude	climb in a Pilatus PC-6	of freefall	under canopy

Your jump, step by step

Term	In French	What it means
Briefing	Briefing	The explanation given on the ground before the jump. For a tandem it covers the essentials: exit position, banana arch in freefall, legs up for landing, the instructor's signals. Before a first AFF (PAC) jump it is a proper ground course, emergency procedures included.
Passenger harness	Harnais passager	The harness you put on before boarding: leg, chest and shoulder straps adjusted to your size. In the aircraft, the instructor clips it to their own at four points (two at the shoulders, two at the hips) and checks every attachment before exit.
Gear check	Vérification du matériel	A check made before boarding and again before exit: straps, pins, handles, AAD. In a tandem, your instructor checks your harness and the four attachment points; on AFF (PAC) you learn to do your own.
Ride to altitude	Montée	The flight between take-off and exit. At PACMA it takes 15 to 20 minutes to reach about 4,000 m: time to enjoy the view, go over the instructions with your instructor and tighten the last straps.
Exit	Sortie (d'avion)	The moment you leave the aircraft. In a tandem, the instructor shuffles to the door with you sitting in front: head back, hands on your harness, and off you go. On a first AFF (PAC) jump, you exit between your two instructors, who hold you by the harness.
Arch (banana position)	Position banane (cambrure)	The basic freefall position: hips pushed towards the ground, head back, legs slightly bent behind you. Arched, the body settles naturally belly-to-earth. In a tandem it is the main instruction: “banana”.
Drogue	Drogue (parachute de stabilisation)	A small parachute the tandem instructor throws a few seconds after exit. It stabilises the pair and keeps the fall at about 200 km/h, the speed of a solo skydiver, which allows nearly 50 seconds of freefall. At deployment, it also pulls out the main canopy.
Freefall	Chute libre	The part of the jump between leaving the aircraft and opening the parachute. From 4,000 m it lasts about 50 seconds at close to 200 km/h belly-to-earth, until deployment at around 1,500 m. The falling feeling fades within seconds: the air holds you up.
Deployment	Ouverture	The moment the parachute opens: you throw the pilot chute, which pulls the canopy out of the container; it inflates within a few seconds and your descent rate drops from about 200 km/h to around 20 km/h. In a tandem, the instructor deploys at about 1,500 m.

Term	In French	What it means
Canopy flight	Pilotage sous voile	Flying under an open parachute, from deployment to landing: 5 to 7 minutes at PACMA, in near silence, with the Atlas as a backdrop. You turn, brake and set up your approach: it is real piloting.
Legs up (tandem landing)	Jambes relevées (atterrissage tandem)	The landing instruction for a tandem passenger: as the ground approaches, you lift your legs out in front so the instructor can land the pair, usually sliding in on your bottom, or standing up if they decide so. It is the last move of the briefing.
Weather hold	Attente météo	A pause in jumping when wind, clouds or rain do not allow safe skydiving. The technical director makes the call. At PACMA, if the weather stops your jump, it is moved free of charge to another date in the season or turned into a credit.

Before you come

Term	In French	What it means
Medical certificate	Certificat médical	A doctor's note confirming there is no medical reason against skydiving. For a tandem at PACMA it is required; without one, you can see the club doctor on site (200 MAD). For AFF (PAC) jumps and courses, the FFP requires an approved medical of less than three months.
Weight limit	Poids maximum	The weight above which a tandem is not possible, because two-person gear and the landing are designed for a limited total load. At PACMA the limit is 90 kg for the passenger, dressed. If in doubt, weigh yourself in your clothes and contact us before booking.
Goggles	Lunettes de saut	Soft goggles that protect your eyes from the wind in freefall. Some models fit over prescription glasses: just tell your instructor.

Good to know

- Tandems are open up to 90 kg, dressed.
- Medical certificate required; without one, an on-site medical check is available on the day (200 MAD).
- Weather playing up? Your jump is moved free of charge to another date in the season or turned into a credit.
- Friends and family are welcome; lunchtime buffet under the caidal tent by the runway (70 MAD).
- Getting here: a 2-hour drive from Casablanca, 2.5 hours from Marrakech.

Going further

The full glossary (145 terms): www.pacma-maroc.com/en/skydiving-glossary
Book your tandem (€250): www.pacma-maroc.com/en/book?activity=TANDEM